AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22 Canceled

23. (Currently amended) A method of ameliorating symptoms of a condition associated with inflammation, said method comprising:

identifying a subject having symptoms of a condition associated with chronic inflammation; and

~~modulating~~ reducing in said subject the level or activity of the NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof, thereby ameliorating symptoms of a condition associated with inflammation.

24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is ~~modulated~~ reduced by altering the expression of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof.

25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is ~~modulated~~ reduced by administering a nucleic acid ~~compound~~ to said subject.

26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein ~~modulating~~ reducing the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof modulates the level or activity of a pro-inflammatory chemokine.

27. Canceled

28. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein the level or activity of said pro-inflammatory chemokine is reduced.

29. Canceled

30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~29~~ 23, wherein the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is reduced by reducing the expression of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof.

31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 30, wherein the expression of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is

reduced by providing an antisense nucleic acid complementary to at least a portion of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof and administering the antisense nucleic acid to said subject.

32. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~29~~ 23, wherein the level or activity of said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is reduced by reducing the activity or level of a pro-inflammatory cytokine.

33. (Withdrawn) A method of ameliorating the symptoms of a condition associated with inflammation, said method comprising modulating the level of transcription of at least one promoter responsive to an NF-HEV polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, wherein the level of transcription of said at least one promoter responsive to an NF-HEV polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof is reduced.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, wherein modulating the level or activity of said promoter modulates the level or activity of a pro-inflammatory chemokine.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 35, wherein the level or activity of said pro-inflammatory chemokine is reduced.

38-126. Canceled

127. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein said NF-HEV polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof comprises ~~an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NOs: 4-6~~ the sequence of amino acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

128. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, wherein said NF-HEV polypeptide or biologically active fragment thereof comprises ~~an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NOs: 4-6~~ the sequence of amino acids 1-65 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

129. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the expression of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof is reduced by providing an siRNA complementary to at least a portion of a nucleic acid encoding said NF-HEV

polypeptide or a biologically active fragment thereof and administering the siRNA to said subject.